

**BUREAU D'AUDIENCES PUBLIQUES  
SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT**

PRESENT: Ms. CLAUDETTE JOURNAULT, Chair  
Mr. DONALD LABRIE, Commissioner

**PUBLIC HEARING  
PROJECT TO ESTABLISH A  
TECHNICAL LANDFILL SITE AT DANFORD LAKE  
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALLEYN-et-CAWOOD**

**SECOND PHASE**

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MS. CLAUDETTE JOURNAULT,  
THE CHAIRWOMAN:

5 (Translation) Good afternoon, everyone, so, we are going to continue with the hearings that we - on the proposed site in Allevyn-and-Cawood; Mr. Seaton Findlay. Is Mr. Findlay here?

MR. SEATON FINDLAY:

10 Mme. Chair and Mr. Commissioner, thank you very much for allowing me to make a presentation today. My name is Seaton Findlay. My wife and I have been cottage owners on Danford Lake since 1969. We are retired now. She was a teacher. I was a documentary film maker and writer. In 2001, I published a guidebook on the woodlands of Ottawa.

15 (Presentation of brief)

I have one little - a couple of paragraphs that are not included in the text, but I wonder if I may add them here.

20 My wife and family and I could be described as selfish people. We've come here for almost forty (40) years, wrapped the protective Outaouais around us, and shut out the world.

25 Two (2) things have changed: Our retirement, which I referred to earlier, which allows us to be up here for half a year as opposed to weekends and holidays; the second thing is the proposed landfill. It has brought us face to face against a reality we've been able to ignore for a long time: that this precious area is not impervious to the outside world and is now under a very real threat.

30 If we don't face it now, we will almost certainly regret it in the future. Because if the landfill is given a licence to proceed, it won't be possible to stop it in the future, no matter what kind of damage predicted or unforeseen occurs. All our waste disposal eggs will be in the one mega basket, which we will have to live with for thirty (30) years minimum and possibly very much longer. Thank you.

35 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Regarding the project that we're looking at with you, what is your greatest concern, if you were in a position to mention one great concern?

40 MR. SEATON FINDLAY:

I would say - I can only speak for myself, but I would say the inability to predict things

45 that will go - can possibly go wrong with such a large, long-term project. In my film career, I was involved in a number of environmental films that had, for their subjects, such colossal environmental - environment-affecting repercussions such as the burial of nuclear fuel, water problems in Latin America.

50 And it always seemed to me there was a great deal of optimistic speculation masquerading as facts and statistics in the presentations of the proponent. It seems to be a common theme that runs through all mega projects proposed by someone.

55 First of all, the people behind these projects get their act together early. They have their responses to every situation. Then, they go public. The public is caught off guard. The questions start, and we have a situation much as we have today concerning the landfill. So, when I'm talking about the dangers for - represented for me for the landfill, they have this background.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

60 (Translation) Thank you for your testimony; Mrs. Lola Brown, Lola Brown or Brian Gainsford.

MS. LOLA BROWN:

65 Mrs. Journault, Mr. Labrie, good afternoon, my name is Lola Brown. I'm presenting this brief on behalf of Brian Gainsford of Gracefield, Quebec.

70 My name is Brian Gainsford, a lifelong farmer, along with my son Lionel and my grandchildren. Our seven hundred (700) acre farm is situated in the municipality of Gracefield right sector and within the confluence of the Gatineau River and the Picanoc River.

The farm is bordered on the east side for approximately one mile by the Gatineau River and on the south side for approximately one mile by the Picanoc River. It is downstream from the proposed Danford landfill site.

75 The Picanoc River has always been a major factor in the operation of our farm. Its waters have always been used for both human and animal purposes. The Quebec Minister of Natural Resources has designated the Picanoc River as a protected area for fish spawning from where it empties into the Gatineau River, upstream for approximately one-quarter mile, as far as the rapids.

80 As farmers, under the environmental regulations, we are obliged to protect a three (3) metre wide strip of land along waterways that touch our land. This protection is in the form of

fencing, so that our animals do not have access to the waterways, and the strip is allowed to grow up with its natural vegetation.

85

Also, we cannot pasture or house our animals within a stipulated distance from the waterways, and we are strictly monitored on the ways we fertilize crop fields as to control any run-off which might affect the waterways. Obviously, this procedure is extremely costly for the farmers, but as people of the land, we are very aware of the environment from which we make our living and recognize the importance of the riverbank regulations.

90

Having brought these strict farming environmental regulations to your attention, I cannot understand how a mega landfill site can be proposed where several waterways can be affected, and, in particular, the Picanoc River.

95

Our interest in the Danford landfill project is its proposed size and its close proximity to the Picanoc River.

Our concern is the potential effect it could have on the quality of the river water caused by run-off and leaching, perhaps not in my generation, but as farmers, our thoughts and plans must always reach into the future of following generations.

100

As I have already stated, this river is a critical part of our farming operation for irrigation purposes, for farm animal consumption, for human use, and, yes, even for recreational purposes. We have all been raised using our favourite old swimming hole in the Picanoc River. In my opinion, these facts and sentiments hold true for every family and every business who have established their homes and workplaces on the banks of this river.

105

Even the bountiful wildlife in this territory would be affected, as this river also sustains them. In the event toxins and bacteria should contaminate this waterway, it would be disastrous, disrupting a way of life this river has sustained since the population migrated this far north in the mid-1800's.

110

It is also evident from the amount of usage of its waters, contaminants would eventually enter the human food chain through the consumption of milk, meat, fish, and wild game.

115

I do not consider this project to be acceptable, as it has the potential for such far-reaching negative effects on the environment and on humans and animals, domestic and wild, in our territory.

120

Since I do not live in the village of Danford, I cannot speak of the community's feelings on this proposed landfill site, but I do know that garbage odour quickly changes to stench. And if I do not secure my by-the-road garbage container, it is invaded by a variety of wildlife and scattered all around.

125

As a farmer, I have dealt with the absolute cunning and tenacity of wildlife, if there is a promise of food on the other side of any barrier. This is coping with only the smaller of the wild creatures: raccoons, groundhogs, squirrels, rats, etc.

130

A massive pile of garbage, no matter how well it is fenced, will attract wildlife of all sizes and in great numbers, including coyotes, wolves, foxes, bears, etc. The scavenger bird population will increase, and they will scatter garbage far and wide.

135

When all of these wild creatures begin to spill over into the village streets, and they will, as they do not obey no trespassing signs, the carnage of destroying the nuisance ones will begin.

140

If this project is established, in addition to the wildlife problem, there will be the added traffic volume of heavy-duty trucks with their excessive noise and foul emissions further affecting the environment.

145

I can only say if I lived in this village, I would be lobbying very strongly for a more acceptable waste management program. In this day and age, the solution of waste management should be dealt with through the high tech industries.

150

Proven systems which comply with all environmental regulations and a good workable recycling and composting program would definitely have the least negative impact on the community and territory, especially if the high tech systems could operate on a smaller volume of garbage, thus reducing the area for haulage which would reduce the traffic volume with all its negative side effects.

155

In my opinion, it is irresponsible to establish open-air landfill sites anywhere with all their negative aspects, when there are high tech systems available to deal with the situation.

I submit that the Danford landfill project is unacceptable and counterproductive to the wellness and advancement of the Outaouais/west Quebec territory. Since tourism is being promoted and embraced as one of our major industries, this proposed system of landfill is inconceivable, as it affects the image of our area and harbours the potential to contaminate some of our pristine forested valleys and waterways.

160

It is my opinion that authorization should not be granted for this proposed landfill project in Danford.

Question: Why does the valley have to be filled up? Is it an eyesore to be covered up? Do we need another ski hill, a road, a mountaintop viewing stand? Is this project a true landfill

165 to be used for a specific purpose somewhere in the distant future, and has that project been identified?

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

170 (Translation) Thank you very much, Madam; the message that you have given us is very clear. We have no questions, thank you.

MS. LOLA BROWN:

175 On a totally different topic, a seniors' village project, may I just say a few words? Thank you; a group of concerned west Quebec citizens are presently in the planning stages of establishing a seniors' village, including housing facilities and a wellness fitness centre to be located in the Kazabazua area.

180 The seniors' facility would be a totally self-contained village with all the facilities that would be needed for complete secure and comfortable living through the stages of totally independent living to palliative care time.

185 The plans for this village are to be completely environmental friendly, using such things as solar power, geo thermal heating and cooling, renewable products for building materials, etc.

190 One of the major concerns in our planning is the large amount of garbage this facility will create. Some of it could be toxic. We do not want this garbage to be handled in an open-air landfill site. We do not have a solution to this part of our plan, and are waiting for the final decision on the proposed Danford landfill project before we make any decisions about the management of our garbage. Thank you for the time.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

195 (Translation) Thank you, Ma'am; Mr. Gordon Mott.

MR. GORDON MOTT:

200 Mme. President and Mr. Commissioner, I thank you for the opportunity to speak. I also would like to apologize for not having a draft prepared ahead of time. Life in general took over my life.

205 The issue we are discussing in this conversation is going on around the world. We're not alone in this discussion. Garbage and sewage handling are probably two (2) of the largest problems the world has to face. Population is growing. So are the outputs.

210 We all wish to apply what is called the NIMBY theory, be it myself or any of the people I see in front of me, not in my backyard, but along with this theory comes the fact that people are now realizing this cannot be. We must all participate to look after this problem. Putting it in someone else's backyard does not solve a problem. What has been transpiring through my experience is regional treatment, localized treatment of both sewage and garbage.

215 I hope with all of my heart, and I want to believe that these hearings are being listened to, are being heard, and the people are being heard, because if they are, I truly believe that this project will not go ahead as proposed.

220 The people that I've been listening to are not saying no. They're saying one possibility was put forward, one possibility was accepted, and one possibility is - there's an effort being made to put it in place, that being the dump site.

225 As we look at new technology that has come on the scene, the latest buzz word or technology is plasma gasification, and it is being used presently in the Ottawa area. It is also being used, I believe, in Europe. This is a solution that people, people everywhere, have come up with, and they've said, no, we can't have landfill sites. That is technology from thirty (30) years ago.

230 We did not know about new technologies. At one time, we did not know how to make electricity with wind. It is now one of Quebec's bigger incentive programs. We now know how to recover energy from our garbage. So, people are saying let us go ahead. Let us use new technology. Let us be progressive and treat local sites with the new technology.

235 I was involved quite deeply in a project that was in the Ottawa area in Richmond, Ontario, albeit it was not garbage or landfill. It was sewage, but what transpired there has potentially put approximately twelve hundred (1,200) shallow wells in danger, as it was in Walkerton. And it has also proven that, as the carpenters, cabinet makers, quite often say: Measure three (3) times; cut once.

240 What happened in the area of Richmond was an unsolicited proposal came forward to put in a pressure sewage line through the town of Richmond. Because this technology was understood, known, and people dealing within the system were comfortable with it, even against advice from firms, advice from the Ontario government, they went ahead, and they put this particular line in.

245 It still is not working properly. It still is in problems thirty (30) million dollars later. They are now looking at the first new technology that was offered to them, and that was localized regional treatment.

With the plasma gasification plants, Quebec and Ontario and every other province

250 across this country and down in the States will have the opportunity to manage garbage in a form  
 where it's acceptable to everyone. I.e., I'm not sure where you people live, but would you rather  
 have a plant that gave off no pollution, handled your garbage, had shorter distances for trucks to  
 travel, fewer trucks going to one location in your backyard, or would you prefer to have sixty (60)  
 square hectares twenty (20) stories high supposedly covered and protected from, as the lady  
 before me said and as the gentleman who deals with the land, the animals, so that there aren't -  
 255 there isn't carried pollution and all the rest of it?

So, here, we have an opportunity to just stop, take a look at the technologies that are  
 available. While we're looking at plasma gasification, somebody may come up with something  
 new, but that is a good thing. This is a good thing happening. And we may take another look at it,  
 260 and it may come out that maybe a landfill is the answer.

But I don't think the government has been given all the data that was required to make a  
 decision, because as decision makers and helping us spend our tax money and run our country  
 and run our province, we put a lot of trust in the government, but the government can only act  
 265 within the knowledge it's given. We give a limited knowledge to the government. It has to make a  
 decision upon the knowledge it's given.

I think what has happened through these hearings and what has been brought forward is  
 that there's a lot more information and a lot more items that have to be looked at before this  
 270 particular project goes ahead. And there are a lot more opportunities and different ways in which it  
 can be handled.

I have some facts and figures for plasma gasification, which prove it to be a financially  
 viable situation and, in fact, in the long run, a financially advantageous procedure.  
 275

And in our particular situation here in the Quebec government, the Quebec government is  
 on a huge initiative. As a matter of fact, they are one of the leaders in fighting against pollution,  
 no matter what it is. They're putting special taxes on different companies for things they're doing.  
 They are one of the more aggressive provinces in our country attacking pollution.  
 280

Here, we have an opportunity to go ahead, prevent the possibility of polluting some of our  
 loveliest waterways within the Outaouais region. We have a way of perhaps leading the way on  
 how to manage and handle our garbage and sewage and so on.

I am sorry I am not more organized, but I feel very passionately that the people in this area  
 do not - they're not saying no. They're not saying, no, you can't do it here. They're saying let's  
 just stop. Let's just take a really hard look at what we are doing, because you and I - I hate to say  
 this, but I'm in the insurance business - we're going to be gone when the damage is done.  
 285

290 And how is anybody going to repair it? We, in front of the ladder or in front of the train,

have a chance of stopping this train. And I'm just asking that this commission consider the requests of hundreds of people to stop. Do not grant carte blanche a landfill site. Let's take another look, because there's too much at stake here, and there are other alternatives. We do not have to follow the same old routine. There are alternatives. Thank you.

295

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Thank your for your testimony, sir; Mr. Warren Woods, is Mr. Woods in the hall? We'll ask him to come forward later, if he's not here. Okay, Mr. Robert Hyams, Mr. Robert Hyams, Mr. Robert Hyams, please; okay, Mr. Troy Wilson, is Mr. Troy Wilson here? No? No? Yes? Okay, Mr. Ota Hora.

300

MR. OTA HORA:

Thank you, Mme. Chair and Mr. Commissioner; my name is Ota Hora. I am a resident of Kazabazua. I'm the Deputy Mayor there, but I'm speaking at this time as a private citizen, not representing my council.

305

I was born on the 5th of May, 1945, in Prague during the Prague uprising after the Second World War. My father was a politician, and I made a vow at that time that I would not get involved in politics. So, here I am. The old saying goes: You can't trust a politician.

310

We settled in Canada, and my father had the foresight, when I was ten (10) years old, to send me to live with a French family in Port Alfred *près de* Chicoutimi to learn French. I lived with a very traditional family. They had two (2) sets of grandparents at home. The oldest son was a priest. The oldest daughter was a nun. And the rest of the family worked in the mill.

315

I've been in this area since 1988. I live here by choice. I live on a spring-fed clean lake. I'm very fortunate to be here.

320

A lot of the commentary has been that people in this region feel themselves poor. My son is married to a Japanese woman from a very wealthy family. They are multimillionaires. When they came to visit us on our lake, they said that they themselves could not afford that type of property in Japan, because it was reserved only for the emperor. This is the reality of the wealth we have here. I'll be talking later about why we do feel impoverished because of government inaction.

325

In 1990, I met William Commanda, who spoke here previously. He's the ninety-three (93) year old elder that carries the seven (7) fires prophecy belt. I met him when he welcomed the Dalai Lama to Canada at a time when Prime Minister Mulroney refused to meet with the Dalai Lama.

330

335 The seven fires prophecy belt ties in with the Hopi prophecy from twenty-five thousand (25,000) years ago and also the Mayan prophecy regarding the year 2012. Twenty-four (24) years ago, the Hopi elders passed on the prophecy to me. The elder that passed it on to me has since passed away. And before he passed on, he gave me the responsibility of carrying one of his sacred pipes. So, I'm empowered to speak in detail to anyone that wants to hear about the Hopi prophecy. There's not enough time here to do that.

340 Basically, twenty-five thousand (25,000) years ago, we had started to disrespect each other and the earth. And so, the Creator sent us to the four (4) corners of the world to become four (4) different colours, to experience exactly what we see in the world today, all of it caused by disrespect.

345 The sign - one of the signs the Hopi elder said that would indicate the coming to an end of this suffering was that the eagle would land on the moon. This, in fact, happened when the American spaceship landed on the moon. It was called the Eagle.

350 Also, when this time was ready, the pipes from the original fire twenty-five thousand (25,000) years ago would come back to the Hopi. In late 1970, the sixteenth Karmapa of Tibet brought that sacred pipe from Tibet back to the Hopi elders in Arizona.

The suffering we are currently experiencing is to wake us up, and this proposed dump site is doing exactly that for all of us, as you've heard in previous testimony.

355 During these hearings, another indication of the coming together of people, I have seen people testifying and working from all four (4) directions of the world. Every colour has been represented here.

360 William Commanda hosts an annual gathering in Maniwaki the first weekend in August every year. Between three (3,000) and five thousand (5,000) people from around the world come to gather to receive the teachings and come together as brothers and sisters.

365 William Commanda carries the teachings of the nine (9) grandfathers. One of the teachings is respect. The lack of respect is what has brought the world to its current condition. Respect is based on trust, and trust is based on truth.

370 And I thank this commission for allowing us to share the truth, because there have been a lot of false rumours about what is happening, what so-and-so is doing. There has been a lot of finger-pointing. We must all remember that when we point the finger, intentionally or unintentionally, at someone else, there's always three (3) fingers pointing back at us that we should look inward.

Another thing that is important is to have in our hearts forgiveness. And, this, I pass this

375 message on from William. As a person whose nation has suffered tremendously in the last five hundred (500) years, he practises forgiveness. And the teaching on forgiveness is you're giving yourself for the future. You're liberating yourself from the anger and the pain that you've experienced, and this allows you to embrace other people and all our relations.

380 I must comment on, since I've been adopted into the Bear Clan, a lack of respect is shown in the fact that, in Quebec, the spring bear hunt is allowed. A number of people have hunted bear, then kill the cubs rather than let them starve to death. And when they skin a young cub, they see a human baby in front of them. The bear is the closest animal relation to human. And they certainly stop hunting at that point.

385 If we don't respect our animal relations, we cannot respect our human relations. As our respect for all our relations increases, the level of violence will decrease dramatically.

390 It was mentioned that part of the reason driving this project is that it is a poor area, and it certainly is. The original settlers settled, and the most dramatic thing I can see is in the mountain where there are two (2) farms, Bob McGuilly, and you can see that their main crop was rocks, and they still persevered. Most of the Danford area and Kazabazua is gravel, and these people settled here and somehow scratched out a living with great difficulty, with little ability to pass on to their families, because there's very little support from governments, and that is continuing.

395 In terms of education, our Mayor Adrien Noël, who is now seventy-one (71), was one of the more brilliant students in the area, wanted to continue his education, had to drop out of school in Grade 9, because his family could not afford the thirty cent (\$0.30) train trip to Hull daily. He spoke to you previously.

400 In spite of a lack of education in the area - there is a very high illiteracy rate - people still have commonsense, but they have lived in fear of what governments do to them when they do stand up. The Outaouais has continued to be ignored economically by successive governments.

405 The language police continue to harass. Currently, in Kazabazua, they are harassing our fire chief and road foreman, both of whom can speak not fluent French, but can communicate and never had any complaints. And they're forcing them to go to Montreal to be tested.

410 The RBQ, the union, harasses our construction workers who try to work on people's cottages, because they don't have a union card. They don't have the education to get a union card. So, it prevents a lot of work. It creates a lot of fear.

On the petitions, you'll notice - some of the petitions that circulated around, you'll see the same writing on it. It's because people don't know how to write, sign their signatures. So, one

person does it for them.

415

With this background, five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) manifests, because the promoter is promoting a dump. Plans are made. Dreams are created. All of a sudden, this is the magic formula. I can only equate this to having been in Colorado and seeing what gold fever does to people. People's personalities change, and I've seen that change in personalities in this area.

420

People feel that this project will solve all of their problems. It won't. In its present form, it will just create new problems and divisions. The community has suffered. This year in Danford, at Bethany Hall, the Christmas dinner was cancelled. The Mothers' Day dinner was cancelled. The Fathers' Day dinner was cancelled. Because people have stopped talking to each other. The community is that divided.

425

People have been treated with disrespect by the council, as previously noted. The people have been accusing each other based on false rumours. So-and-so did this. The reality is unless we've seen it ourselves, we don't know who has done what to anyone.

430

People that have questioned the data around the dump have been told their facts are inaccurate. I was told that a few days ago, after the yes committee spoke. And I had a discussion with a person related to one of the people in the yes committee. And they were adamant that the height of the garbage, when the dump is closed, would only be fifty (50) feet high. I clarified again this morning with the promoter before I spoke, and he said, yes, it indeed approaches two hundred (200) feet, but that person I talked to would not listen to what I was saying.

435

They also said there would be no smell, no pollution from this dump.

440

It was stated by the yes committee that six (6) jobs would be created using this technology. It would keep - it would provide an economic basis to keep young people in the village, whereas, with improved technology, there could be twenty-five (25) to fifty (50) additional jobs created with much reduced environmental impact.

445

We've heard of the seagulls, the possibility for avian flu, the vermin. We've been warned by governments of global pandemics. So, are we about to create a situation where this area may have to be quarantined, so we don't go back to Ottawa or Gatineau? The leachate liner will - there's guaranteed a hundred percent (100%) failure, whether it's in twenty-five (25) years or a hundred (100) years. A spirit talking, it's to lighten it up a little bit.

450

The Department of Environment is notorious for hassling the little person. We have a case on Danford Lake where Mr. Mike Buckley, with a municipal permit, tore down an old boat

455 house that had creosote logs in the ground and did a wonderful job doing it. The environment fined him, because they indicated that he had damaged the fish habitat.

460 They are now in the process of forcing him to - trying to force him to tear down a hundred and twenty (120,000) beautiful building, very well set. If they are worried about damage to the fish habitat, why in the world would they cause it to be torn down, when he has offered to mitigate the damages by providing funding for some other project?

465 It seems the Department of Environment is not - was not concerned about spawning grounds and fish hatcheries when they approved the sanitation sewage plant in Kazabazua on the Kaz River. We indicated to environment and the promoter, the old timers again, that it's really not a river. It's a creek, and it does dry up. In the first year of operation, they had to close the plant six (6) times because of low water levels.

470 It is ironic in this project that a major protected doré, pickerel spawning ground, stretching one point five (1.5) kilometres on the Picanoc towards the Gatineau River and Gracefield, is not seriously being protected.

475 Our own MRC, the Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, in January, 2006, when the Minister of Environment, in the middle of winter, created this panic by closing, basically closing, a lot of the trench landfills, because you couldn't use them if you couldn't dig - and we couldn't dig. The land was frozen with no warning. Our MRC ignored us and said, well, it's not in our - Danford village is not in our MRC. It splits directly, as you're aware, Kaz and Danford, and this has created major problems that we're in two (2) MRC's. And, yet, we're cross-related. We're brothers and sisters.

480 Government: Since I was elected to council, I now more fully understand the problems of municipal government. We never have enough money to do our job. The province and the federal government has it all. We have to beg for it, literally.

485 Lawrence Cannon, our provincial - our federal member, who was in the Cabinet, has a fifteen (15) billion dollar budget for transportation and infrastructure. Yesterday, he was representing the Minister of Environment at the sewage treatment plant in Kazabazua, and he indicated that the Environment Department has another nine (9) billion dollars for environmental projects.

490 The Federation of Canadian Municipalities donated over a million dollars to our MRC because of the state-of-the art technology that cost more to put in for the sewage plant. So money is available.

Yesterday, I literally pleaded with Lawrence Cannon to assist us in Quebec City on this project. And I continued to ask him to improve Highway 105 and provide funding for a four (4)

495 lane highway and bypasses for the proposed - whatever proposed dump is finally done.

Could you imagine the difference? Because you've all driven the 105. Could you imagine a four (4) lane highway coming up that would literally open up this area for tourism? The truck traffic, there would be no complaints about that. It could bypass.

500

And we could have an enclosed facility to treat garbage similar to that what's in Guelph and Halifax, where garbage is dumped into a factory. It's sorted out beforehand, but a final sorting is done in the factory. What this does is tremendously increase the amount of employment to at least fifty (50) people on two (2) shifts a day, if not more, but the main thing it does, it prevents the crime in progress.

505

And I had a garbage bag. It's in my car. It's full. It is a crime in progress. Every garbage bag that we see by the side of the road is a crime in progress, if it's going to an open-air landfill. And the reason it's a crime in progress, because you can put anything into that garbage bag, and nobody is going to check.

510

I've talked to the promoters. They know that they can't check. They depend on the honour principle of what people are going to dump in the dump. Cantley depended on the honour principle also, and look what happened to them. There's allegations that PCB's by one of the employees, that he was there while PCB's from transformers were being dumped.

515

In this proposed open-air landfill, we cannot guarantee what is being dumped out of the back of a truck. Once it's dumped, it's dumped.

520

The municipal government: Every month, we're under pressure to justify our spending. Provincial and federal governments, they do whatever they want. They don't have to justify anything until the next election. In the municipal government, there's no provincial party to support us. You're literally at the mercy of the citizens. We don't have a political party behind us. We don't have political contributions. We don't have job offers. This creates tremendous uncertainty and, I think, keeps good people out of politics.

525

I think it's deliberately created, and I think it creates problems that we see in Danford village where an entire council was put in by acclamation. Acclamation means that the citizens don't want to get involved. In Kaz, we faced a similar situation during that election, and three (3) people offered to contest. So, three (3) out of the seven (7) had to go through election.

530

Rebuilding: I want to personally thank Mme. la Présidente and the Commissioner and all of your staff for allowing us to explore all sides of this very controversial proposal. You have demonstrated a tremendous amount of respect for us. You've insisted on respect. You've created that feeling of trust. It's because you are trying to get at the truth. And I followed your in-depth questioning, and I really appreciate the attention you gave to everyone. So, merci

535

beaucoup.

540 I also appreciate your offer to be available as facilitators for the future, and, hopefully, we could access that if needed.

545 We must now all move forward to continue the healing process, no more finger-pointing in the community or elsewhere. In line with this, I have offered the promoter, in a discussion this morning, my free services as a mediator to more fully include the yes side in this process. It is, to me, very distressing that so few people that support the dump from the village, they were so vocal, that did not come to hear the hearings and also from the municipal council. Mr. Squitti, of course, is ill and, I believe, has contributed to this outfall.

550 In conclusion, I am very thankful that this project was proposed. It is giving us an opportunity to create a new community based on respect, trust, and based on truth, respect for all our relations: human, animal, nature.

555 Working together, we can stand and guarantee that the provincial and federal governments finally provide the appropriate funding to dramatically improve our economic and social lives. This is the time to do that. As we start to respect each other, we will no longer be pushed around and take second best.

560 William Commanda weeps when he sees the lumber chip trucks moving down the highway. He used to, as a young person, work on the log drive, and he knows the only reason the chip trucks are on the highway is because the logs are no longer big enough to move down the river. So, in the haste to chop down the forests and not re-forest, we have incredible job loss and pain within the communities.

565 William Commanda, one of the favourite things, he says if we don't wake up, it will be only after the last bit of water is polluted, the last tree is cut, the last fish harvested, we will realize that we can't eat our money. This is a wake-up call, and I thank you and all my relations.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

570 (Translation) You are part of the politicians on a local level. You know that the municipalities of the MRC's have the responsibilities to make management plans for residual matters, and the law forces them to consult the population like for major infrastructures, for example. And this is in the spirit of a regional vision to find a social concertation like to develop some projects that are unifying instead of dividing the population.

575 So, these management plans, you know that the MRC's from the region have done some. There will be another series of management plans, because it's every year that they have to be updated. And so, it is new in Quebec. We're just beginning the learning of the public

participation to influence the MRC's in their decision.

580

And with the experience that you've just had with this project, what would be the advice that you would give to your MRC? For you, it's the MRC Valley of the Gatineau. What would be the advice that you would give to the MRC, when they're going to put in place their new management plan? This is my first portion of the question.

585

And also, what would you say in terms of advice to your reeve at the table to make it so that they study together and work together, but also the population to develop some regional solutions?

590

MR. OTA HORA:

(Translation) It's interesting, because Mr. Cannon was with our reeve, Pierre Rondeau, at the - sorry, I'm going to switch to English for the rest of the people. He was at the sewage plant, and I spoke - I actually took the microphone. I wasn't part of the presentation, but I made myself part of the presentation, because I feel so strongly about the environment.

595

And so, there we were yesterday at the very modern sewage treatment plant. I did not agree with it going out of the Kaz River or creek, but there it is. I was very impressed, because the sewage truck actually came up and dumped while we were there right underneath the thing, and there was no smell, which I - you know, which was pleasing to me.

600

So that was, you know - but I spoke and advised the Minister and the prefect and the mayors that were there of the need for us to work together to get the proper funding to improve the proposal in Danford village, which is only twelve (12) kilometres away from where we stood.

605

I indicated my pleasure with what our MRC has done in terms of taking a lead role. Our prefect and the committee have visited a number of different garbage processes and plants both in Quebec and in Ontario. They've been instrumental in talking with the other MRC's and the Ville de Gatineau and the Pontiac to work together. They've got their *réunion* on the 19th of June, the Table of Prefects. We'll certainly ensure that our municipalities are kept informed.

610

And the other day I talked with the prefect from the MRC of the Pontiac, and he indicated that they're still open to new technology and that. So, that's what he told me. So, it's through this sort of participation.

615

I think, a lot of times, governments, the higher up you go, the less consultation there is. For instance, yesterday, Lawrence Cannon, when I talked to him, there was very little time. There's lot of time for photo opportunities, but there's very little time to concretely stop and say this is what we need and actually get a reply to it.

620

625 So, I still haven't learned that technique. I'm working on it, but I know that this process will make our whole region stronger to give us the spirit of respecting ourselves, so we don't get pushed aside, because somebody is a politician. Well, they're the same as we are, you know. Because I've been elected to council does not make me a better person. In fact, it shows up how my weaknesses that I have to work on to become a better person.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

630 (Translation) Thank you for your testimony; Mr. Claude Schnupp.

MR. CLAUDE SCHNUPP:

635 Good afternoon, my name is Claude Schnupp. I reside in the municipality of Kazabazua bordering Highway 301 on the road. This will be short.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Short, but slow, thank you.

640 MR. CLAUDE SCHNUPP:

645 Our family has, for the past fifty (50) years, owned a cottage on Danford Lake. My parents, who are deceased, have now passed on this cottage to my sister, who, in turn, will most likely pass it on to her children and so forth for generations to come.

What I wish to express here are my concerns pertaining to the land and water.

650 My place of dwelling is situated in an area which is called, in Kazabazua, the Plains of Kazabazua, which is highly renowned for its blueberries and various other fruits such as blackberry, raspberry, Saskatoon berry, pin cherry, and choke cherry. Wild flowers, birds, and animals abound. Deer, fox, bear, skunk, porcupine, raccoon, squirrels, mice, moles, snakes, coyotes, wolves, hawks, wild turkeys, ducks, and a varied assortment of songbirds are in our area, a perfectly balanced environment.

655 Roughly two (2) kilometres from my personal family's dwelling, that consists of my wife, myself, and my son, who stands to inherit the five point three five (5.35) acres we owned, is the homestead of my parents established on Danford Lake, which should not be confused with Danford village, as it is in the municipality of Kazabazua.

660 The lake is roughly twelve (12) kilometres from the proposed mega dump and is comprised of approximately a hundred and forty (140) to a hundred and fifty (150) cottages. Some are seasonal and some are permanent residents. During the summer, this lake is abuzz

with activities of boating, skiing, tubing, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, swimming, laughter, joy, lounging, and relaxing, a vacationing atmosphere.

665

Its shoreline is natural, and a fifty (50) foot buffer extending from its shoreline is maintained and enforced by the municipality. It has a strong and involved association, which is comprised of numerous lakes, local lakes. The water is impeccably clean and drinkable. It is a well-known fact that it is spring-fed, hence supplied by an aquifer.

670

I, being a carpenter and having worked along its shores, have experienced the water seeping out of its banks. I have also been shown a hole in the lake the size of a saucer plate emitting water from its cold depths. There is no water flowing into the lake. As I have said, it is spring-fed. There is a creek leading out, which is annually dammed by beavers. That, in turn, raises the water level of the lake.

675

Again, I have personally witnessed its waters rise by three (3) to four (4) inches within one week without precipitation. The shoreline is roughly three (3) miles around with a maximum depth of a hundred and ten (110) feet. Three (3) to four (4) inches in an area that size, in my opinion, is a large water - large volume of water to accumulate in one week.

680

I ask myself: How large is this aquifer and what are its boundaries? An x-ray would reveal it, but, to my knowledge, no such technology exists. How can a few holes dug at a proposed site reveal what lies beneath the surface? What about the underground rivers and springs that connect all water sources? This area is dotted with lakes, rivers, creeks, and ponds. Our home is surrounded by ponds which, on warm summer evenings, entertain us with their sounds of peeping frogs.

685

Now, back to Danford Lake for a moment, the waters of Danford Lake, like I had mentioned previously, flow into Horseshoe Lake, which, in turn, flows into Freddy Lake, then into McCauley Lake, and finally into the Picanoc River. Therefore, it helps supply these waterways with clean, fresh, spring-fed water.

690

It would be a shame to spoil this perfectly balanced ecosystem to accommodate a dump for the sake of profit, and deprive future generations the privilege of experience nature in this area, as we are experiencing it today.

695

In closing, I hope that, collectively, our thoughts and expressions will help the Ministry make the right decision. I vote no, and I hope the Ministry does as well. And that's it, thank you very much.

700

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Thank you, sir, for your testimony; Karen Little, Mrs. Karen Little.

705

MS. KAREN LITTLE:

(Presentation of brief)

710 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Thank you, Madam; well, we are now at the right of rectification, the right of correction. Before proceeding with the right of rectification, I wish to be certain that the three (3) people that I named are not here. That is Mr. Woods, Mr. Hyams, and Mr. Wilson. None of them  
715 are here. Well, then, the registry is now closed. We are now at the right of rectification or right of correction stage. Mr. Raye Thomas has a correction.

MR. RAYE THOMAS:

720 Mme. President, M. Commissaire, thank you for - my name is Raye Thomas. Several times in the last few days, you've raised the issue of construction waste and asking particularly if plasma gasification could deal with it, and you had no satisfactory answers. After the hearings, I will submit some material on that for you, but I'd like to make a couple of points today.

725 Plasma gasification can treat all construction waste, but it doesn't make sense to do so.

Material like stone, brick, mortar, concrete, these materials have no energy content. So, why waste energy to convert them in a plasma gasification process? They can be crushed and used in further construction.

730

Metals should be removed and recovered and reused.

Then, we have lots of materials like asbestos, insulation, fibreglass, plastics, wood, old tires, for example, those that are used to control blasting in construction. These all contain  
735 energy, which make the plasma gasification process work well.

So, using plasma gasification in conjunction with recycling and reuse of materials will dramatically reduce the amount of dry waste to be dealt with. So, this approach is a very effective one, and I would certainly recommend that type of approach. I'll enlarge on that in a presentation  
740 next week.

In conclusion, I'd like to say that I've been impressed by the way you've conducted the proceedings here during this past week. We all felt that you mastered the issues, that our views were respected. This was very true, because even people who are not accustomed to public  
745 speaking felt - they felt confident enough to speak. I applaud you for creating this environment, and I'm sure we all wish you luck in your deliberations to come. May God give you wisdom in this task, thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER:

750

(Translation) Thank you, Mr. Thomas; I don't doubt that the performance of plasma gasification to treat whatever it receives. I'll give you an example from my own experience, and you'll tell me if you have a solution to this, and you can write it up for me, but I'll ask the Minister as well.

755

My daughter, last year, in a certain -- in Charlevoix, she had bought land which had been used for raising mink forty (40) to fifty (50) years ago. So, they had adult trees, mature trees, and there were buildings that had served to raise mink for mink farming, for mink farming. You see, I have to learn a little bit, too, here.

760

So, obviously, we recuperated all of the wood that was around there, lying around there, and the entrepreneur that was responsible for building the house and for putting in the foundations had to get rid of all the stumps. And then, he had - there was the organic matter that was in all of that. There were hundreds of stumps. And so, we took everything out.

765

He took out - he loaded all of that into trucks, big blocks of concrete, big stumps, topsoil. And because this is a rather rocky area, and there were big boulders, there was gravel, there was - you know, he made several trips. And so, we were a little bit surprised to see that the only way to dispose of that, and I'm talking about last year here, was to send it into a sanitary landfill - excuse me, in a dry dump.

770

And now, beginning in 2009, this will no longer be authorized. So, how could we have treated and separated and sorted all of this, cement blocks that were used for the foundations of buildings in the mink farm, topsoil, stumps, big boulders? And I see that as going in a place where - what will be basically a technical landfill site. So, I'm trying to imagine the solution. How would you separate this and sort it? Because, in addition to the transport costs, I paid for the tipping fees and so on.

775

And that's why I say there is a problem between what you are saying to us as a solution and what in practice. You have to be realistic. This is something that I lived through myself, and this is how hundreds of trucks of material, filled with materials, of demolition and construction materials, you know, maybe the big forty (40) foot dumpster that we had to rent to put all the construction stuff in. There was empty tubes, caulking tubes. There was all kinds of stuff in there. There was wood. There was nails. Perhaps your plasma treatment could have treated that, okay, but the first loads to prepare the site to build the foundation, I really don't know. So, perhaps you can prepare an answer to my question.

785

MR. RAYE THOMAS:

790

Yes, I will certainly try to address that in the material I present. It's very clear that we

have not been in the habit of separating out construction material in the past, and may not have had the infrastructure to deal with it, but it's equally clear that we're going to have to put that infrastructure in place, so that we're not relying on large landfills where - that we're not burying materials that have a potential to create problems for us in the future.

795

So, I think we're in an extremely important transitional phase in the whole issue of waste. I think all of us have a responsibility to continue to look at this to find the best solution. And I think the solutions are there wrapped up in the right combination of commonsense measures, reducing the garbage, and finding ways to separate, reuse it, and whatever has energy that's useful, converting that into energy.

800

I'll give you an example of something that happened in Africa, which shows us the way. In the country of Rwanda, plastic garbage bags are totally illegal. You are not allowed to use those.

805

We use far too many plastic garbage bags that contain so much energy, that could be used in the production of electricity. We should be looking at this whole business of reducing the use of materials for packaging, for casual carrying home of groceries, and then throwing it into landfill sites without looking at its value.

810

I think the population is becoming mobilized, and we're seeing that here in Danford village, but we're seeing it all around the world. The population is becoming mobilized to find solutions to this whole issue of waste.

THE COMMISSIONER:

815

(Translation) I just wanted to add a comment. We are right now analyzing. My questions are not to justify the technical landfill site that is being planned. I'm not necessarily - my questions aren't designed to say that we have to have one or that we have to put it there or that it needs to be the size. That isn't the reason for my questions. I'm not arguing. They are purely technical questions, you understand.

820

MR. RAYE THOMAS:

I understand that perfectly, sir, and it has been very clear to me that you have been seeking information and ways of dealing with the issue.

825

MR. JEAN MBARAGA:

(Translation) Good day, Mme. President, Mr. Thomas has just spoken of Rwanda and the fact that I am a Canadian, but I am of Rwandan origin, and I've been here since 1973. So, I've been here for quite a while.

830

835 And what Mr. Thomas has just said, yes, they have banned plastic bags in Rwanda. There was the environmental explanation, quite certainly, to say that we do not want to see the bags all over the place, but the principal reason for that was in order to help the small cottage industry that prepares small bags for carrying things around. And this was really the reason that - for saying that we didn't want to say that they wanted to see these plastic bags everywhere.

840 Now, then, for the problem that you have experienced, Mr. Commissioner, this is precisely why the government has never closed the door on sanitary landfill sites in favour of a completely different technology. Let me explain.

845 The government does not forbid sanitary landfill sites, just as it does not forbid the technology of incineration. If I spoke of the incineration technology, it is because, for one week, we have been hearing people say that the government should and that the Department of the Sustainable Development, Environment, and Parks should favour a new technology and go a little further to say for plasma gasification. So, plasma gasification, at the Environment Department, is considered as being one variation on incineration, a variant form of incineration.

850 I don't want to go over the whole history of this, but I would like to remind people in the hall that you have the chance to have the Chairwoman here at the first public hearings on waste management, and the report was - that was tabled by Mme. Chair that you see in front of you was entitled "Yesterday's Trash and Tomorrow's Resources". And it is in this that there was a whole series of recommendations that the government completely reviewed from - it's because of this, of her report, that the government completely revised all of its waste management policies.

860 And, Mme. Chair, I will remember that one of the first things that people were asking for in their report would be - was to modernize the regulations on solid waste. And they said it had to be modernized, and this is what the Department of the Environment has just done.

865 Also, they wanted to have the - they wanted municipal authorities to have the power to manage waste. They said let's get the waste management out of the government's towers and into the hands of the local governments. Mme. Chair, the government heard you, and they changed things to give some of the power to the municipalities. It's unfortunate what I'm hearing, that the municipal governments could not agree with their taxpayers, and because it says clearly in the law that the municipal government has to consult people.

870 And now I'm going back on the question of the technical landfill sites. TLS's replace sanitary landfill sites and dry material sites, which will no longer be used. And the material which you've mentioned, Mr. Commissioner, went to the dry landfill dump, but could have gone to a technical landfill site, if the cost would be the difference. They would charge you about forty

(\$40.00) or fifty dollars (\$50.00) per ton, whereas if you go to a dry dump, they would charge you - I don't know how much they charged you, but it would be a lot, about seventeen dollars (\$17.00) -

875

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Twenty dollars (\$20.00), for your information, sir.

880

MR. JEAN MBARAGA:

(Translation) Okay, that's about the normal price. So, to go back on this, it is very important that people understand that the government does not forbid us to use one technology or another. For the Department of Sustainable Development, the landfill technology, if it's well applied, is as valid and as acceptable as the incineration technology. And the new regulation is, in fact, called regulation on technical landfill and incineration. It's because this regulation covers both technologies, both landfill and incineration.

885

So, if, tomorrow morning, there is a promoter, and it can be a public promoter or it can be a private promoter, who comes forward and says the - and tables with the Department of Sustainable Development a project for plasma gasification, that request will be studied, and the standards will - that are in the incineration section will be applied.

890

And I'm going to - I'm not supposed to intervene, but you gave me an opportunity to, and I will now conclude by reminding everyone that, within the Department of the Environment, there is not really - they have no preference for one technology over another.

895

The gentleman who spoke earlier, he said that, in developed countries, the - some of the major problems are the problems of treating sewage and treating waste. And the - there is Mr. - there's the gentleman who was speaking about the treatment of sewage, and the government finances up to ninety percent (90%) the sewage treatment plants, but the provincial government has never imposed one type of sewage treatment over another.

900

And someone was talking about various treatments. There are technologies of various kinds. There are biological -sequential biological reactors. There are all kinds of technologies, and all kinds of technologies are proposed to the municipalities, and the municipalities choose them. And, yet, the government finances these projects at ninety percent (90%), but they don't impose them.

905

So, imagine now with the management of waste. The MRC, the prefects come and see us. All we ask them is that they respect the standards that are contained in the regulation concerning incineration and technical landfill sites both. Thank you very much.

910

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

915

(Translation) Thank you; okay, well, we understood your message. What is important is to have a protection of the environment, but the message also that was given in the policy and that was followed by the government in its law is that it is the MRC's that determine the management plans, and what they hope to see as a facility. And nothing would forbid an MRC from defining an intermediate facility between demolition to receive certain intermediate objects like large blocks of concrete that can be reused. And before going to a technical landfill site, they could do that.

920

But, so, let's make room for a bit of imagination and a bit of cooperation, so that we can build solutions where the - there will not be great divisions within the population.

925

So, there's a lot of work to be done yet. We've already done a great deal, but we have one project to look at in a particular regional context. We will continue to do our work during the summer, and we await further information, complementary information, for your briefs.

930

You have until next Wednesday to get in corrections. And if your briefs have been corrected, you can then send completions until Friday. We will wait until Friday, the 22nd of June, yes, the 22nd of June, before we - for the supplementaries to your briefs. So, I believe there is one more rectification, Mr. Renato Livinal.

935

MR. RENATO LIVINAL:

(Translation) Thank you, Mme. Chair; thank you, Mr. Commissioner; may I please see the map that is over there, please? Yes, thank you; is it possible to raise the map a little bit or broaden it a little bit, make it bigger?

940

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Can you broaden the road part? It's just a joke.

945

MR. RENATO LIVINAL:

Mrs. Chair, we talked about Picanoc River a lot, and I'm Renato Livinal, who lives at Miljour Lake. It's a small lake, but this is the one right here. The maps are not really current. We don't see the last construction or the last building that went on on the road, but it's something important that I want to draw your attention to.

950

We talked about the Picanoc, but we didn't talk about the other streams, and the one that I want to mention is this one here. It starts from here, from the mega dump, and it comes all

955 the way here, and it goes around this place, and it comes into my lake. So, if you're going to have a problem with the mega dump, this means this will contaminate my part of the lake as well.

960 And I want you to take note of this, because that's very important. There are other streams that we do not see, and this is Lac Rousseau, but they are not mentioned, but it's important, because the water runs through these places.

965 One other thing I want to draw your attention to, we're talking about dry material. I've been in construction myself, and I have a little bit of knowledge about the two by four (2 x 4), and two by six (2 x 6), and two by eight (2 x 8) and all the construction material. And there are people, and people here in the room, who are specialists on the question of recycling. Cohen & Cohen, I was one of their clients about twenty (20), thirty (30) years. They're specialists for recovering old material. This is how he made millions. I'm not sure, but I think it was.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

970 (Translation) You can make suggestions in your complements to your briefs that we will be receiving by next Wednesday next week. Thank you so much to everyone. I think that it's completed for the rights to correct. Anything?

975 It's part of the second phase, and this is the end. And during these hearings, we had fifty-one (51) briefs. Sixteen (16) were introduced to the commission, but not presented verbally, but they will be made public on Monday, I believe, during next week, fourteen (14), I'm sorry. We had sixteen (16) verbal presentations for eighty-one (81) interventions.

980 So, the report of the commission will be deposited or submitted the 15th of September to the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, and Parks, and then it will be made public. And then, we are going to continue the examination, so, during the summer.

985 So, we thank everyone, and I thank Mr. Labrie for being a commissioner, this commission, and for sustained support. I know that it's going to have a hot summer reading and working with the teams and with the two (2) analysts, who have quite a summer in front of them; the coordinator for the secretariat, Mrs. Renée Poliquin, Mr. Jean-Sébastien Fillion, who is responsible of the relations with citizens and communications with the media, and the Centre partagé du Québec, Mr. Michel Filteau, who is responsible for the technical aspect and the logistic, and Martin Lajoie who is the sound. And our Stenographers, Lise Maisonneuve and  
 990 Annagret Rinaldi, thank you very much; I think they were very warm in their corner. So, we thank them for their support, and for the interpretation for Mr. - I would thank Michel Cléroux, Nicole Groleau, Andrew Laroche, and Joshua Paulson, and thank you for your respect and mutual attention to one another. Have a good summer.

995 -----

I, Annagret Rinaldi, the undersigned, Official Court Reporter, do hereby certify, under my oath of office, that the foregoing is a true transcription of the above-named speakers at the public hearings conducted by the BAPE.

1000

AND I HAVE SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ANNAGRET RINALDI,  
Official Court Reporter.

1005